

Remarks

The Office Action constitutes a restriction requirement between (I) claims 1-4 and (II) claim 5. In response to this, Applicants hereby elect the subject matter of claims 1-4, with traverse.

Applicants emphasize that the election of claims 1-4 is without prejudice to their rights under 35 U.S.C. §121 to file a divisional application for the non-elected subject matter of claim 5.

New claim 6 has been added to the application, based on the disclosure at page 6, line 12 of the specification. It is expected that claim 6 will be included with claims 1-4 in Group I.

In setting for the restriction requirement, the Examiner takes the position that the inventions of Groups I and II require a different field of search. However, to the contrary, both the Group I claims and the Group II claim are identically classified by the Examiner, in class 426, subclass 634. Accordingly, on this basis, Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.


In this regard, as noted in MPEP 803, if a search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions.

Action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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